

Changeable weather this holiday weekend

Interesting April system taking shape, with a 160-knot jet this morning, centered at 150W, 37N. Although this main feature collapses, a portion of it will reform, orienting NW to SE on Saturday over California. The upshot is a wet NorCal Saturday, and a soggy NV Sat pm/ Sunday.

A few thunderstorms are likely in the high country, and possibly Motherlode, this afternoon and tonight. There's a moisture/energy split taking place, so the total rain amounts this weekend will range from 1/10 to about 1/3 inch, with isolated pockets of heavier rain, mainly Saturday. With the cold upper low (-21 degrees C by Saturday evening) traversing Northern California, there will be a negatively tilted trough stretched from western Oregon to the southern Sacramento Valley. This sets the stage for some convective activity, decent dynamics and a changeable weather pattern, even into the San Joaquin Valley, and the Central to Southern Sierra.

Sacramentans can expect a lovely Good Friday, with a pleasant high near 80. (Yesterday, Sac Exec was only 3 degrees away from a record, at 82 degrees). There is a good chance for rain Saturday; light amounts, but pretty good coverage, with wet weather from the Bay area, all the way across 80 to Reno. (The wetter weather will occur north of I-80.) Snow levels will be dropping from 10,000' today, to about 7,000' late Saturday. It will be cooler tomorrow, with valley lows in the upper 60's to about 70 degrees. Although the grass may be damp for egg hunts Sunday morning, and the conditions rather cool, the balance of Sunday will be party cloudy, with a quick rebound to the mid 70's again.

Feather River precip would be welcome, as the season stands at 63% of an average water year. April portends a few chances for rain, so that may bounce up slightly. Average April is 3.9". Forecast Basin precip through till 12Z (5am) Monday is about a third of an inch.

Sierra snow this weekend is limited due to the convective nature of the pattern, higher snow levels through Saturday morning, and merely a quick shot of the available precipitable water.

The next feature approaches midmonth, with a possibility of rain North Coast through Northern Sierra on the 11th, then a larger system on the 13th/14th.

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The next Weather and Climate Newsletter will come out near April 12th, with runoff estimates, and a look at upcoming weather for the tail end of this drier-than-normal season.

(EL)

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